ぬこづけ
Nukoduke!

Kaito Zero
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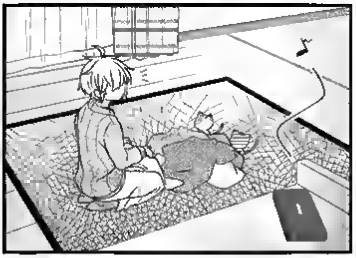
Yugi Iro

ぬこづけ!
HARUKI'S STORY
LOVE STORY
柚木色

WHAT?
HARUKI, HE WHAT?



beep
HELLO?

SFX: COUGH
GUESS IT FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO HIM...
HE HASN'T BEEN GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP LATELY...
He suddenly just fell flonk on the ground.
SO IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S JUST A COLD.
A COLD, HUH.
SFX: BEEP
I WILL.
*101.5°F
38.6°C...
COULD YOU MAKE SURE HE GETS HIS REST FOR ME?
I'VE PUT HIM ON SICK LEAVE FOR A WHILE SO...
I bet he hasn't been eating well this entire time.
IS PLENTY OF BEDREST AND GOOD HEALTHY FOOD.
WHAT HE NEEDS RIGHT NOW...
HIS MANAGER ALREADY TOOK HIM THERE.
ARE YOU SURE HE DOESN'T NEED TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL?
SFX: COUGH

FOR LUNCH WE'LL HAVE SOME PORRIDGE AND MAYBE SOMETHING GOOD FOR DIGESTION...
empty
バコッ
I GUESS WE'LL NEED TO BUY SOME GROCERIES.
YUP...
There's nothing but some old miso
OKAY, WE'RE OFF TO THE STORE TO GET GROCERIES.
SASAME...
LOOK AFTER HARUKI, OKAY?
OKAY!
SEE YOU LATER!
SFX: HAAH
OH NO...
I CAN'T AFFORD TO BE SLEEPING RIGHT NOW...
BECAUSE IF I SLEEP NOW...
WAIT WHAT?

YOU'RE GOING TO VISIT INORI SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?
YEAH.
VISITING HOURS END EARLIER DURING SPRING BREAK FOR SOME REASON.
So I gotta now
YOU WANNA GO TOO?
I...
OF COURSE NOT!
OKAY.
THEN...
SEE YOU LATER.
SFX. KACHAK
LATELY...
WE HAVEN'T BEEN SPENDING MUCH TIME TOGETHER
BUT

BECAUSE
I KNOW
I CAN'T BE SELFISH.
THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME
LEFT.
AFTER THE NEW YEAR BEGAN...

INORI'S CONDITION KEPT GETTING WORSE AND WORSE...
SHE MANAGED TO MAKE IT TO HER OWN GRADUATION.
BUT...
EVENTUALLY SHE WAS CONFINED TO A HOSPITAL BED.
YUUYA NOW SPENDS EVERY MOMENT TIME WILL ALLOW
AT HER SIDE...
HE EVEN TURNED DOWN ALL HIS JOB OFFERS.

I DON'T WANT TO REGRET IT.
THOSE WERE YUUYA'S EXACT WORDS...
SO DUMB...
BUT...
WHEN HE'S WILLING TO GO SO FAR.
THERE'S NO WAY...
I CAN INTER-FERE...
AT LEAST
SFX: WEAK
SFX: WHEEZE X2
SFX: WOBBLE
THAT'S WHAT I DECIDED BUT...

I SHOULD CALL.
YUUYA
SFX: DIZZY X2
HEAD HURTS, BODY ACHES BEYOND USEFUL-NESS..
OH BOY, THIS IS BAD DEFINITELY A FULL BLOWN COLD.
SFX: PANT
SUCK IT UP, HARUKI!
NO!
I'M SURE I CAN GET OVER THIS...
ON MY OWN...
I WILL BE FINE!
SFX: GRAB
HEY, HARUKI!

YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD, ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?
SFX: SURPRISED
DOES IT HURT ANYWHERE?
I'M PERFECTLY FINE!
N=Nope!
I'M JUST SLEEPY, THAT'S ALL!
SFX: PULL AWAY
NO.
DON'T MAKE THEM WORRY.
YOU GUYS ARE GONNA GO SEE INORI RIGHT NOW, RIGHT?
BECAUSE NOW...
YOU GUYS SHOULD GET GOING. BE CAREF...
HARU
SFX: GRAB

WE'RE GOING HOME.
YOU'RE SICK. I CAN FEEL YOUR FEVER FROM HERE.
WHY?
Even your hands are hot
YAMA-TO...
GIVE THIS TO INORI FOR ME?
It's ginseng jelly.
WHY?
YOU GOT IT.
I'LL CALL YOU LATER, OKAY?
OKAY.
I made enough for the both of you, so enjoy.
Aw, you shouldn't have!
AT THIS RATE, NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME PASSES...!
COME ON GUYS
I'LL BE OKAY BY MYSELF! EVERY-THING'S FINE!
SFX: WHEEZE

NO, IT'S NOT!
GOOD GRIEF.
YOU KNOW HE GETS THIS STUB-BORNNESS FROM YOU, RIGHT?
BUT HE LEARNED TO OVERWORK HIMSELF BY WATCHING YOU.
...AHH,
THIS IS WHY...
EVEN THOUGH
I DON'T WANT TO GET IN HIS WAY...

...BUT
MAYBE...
JUST TODAY...
Haruki?! Are you okay?!
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU TWO I CAN NEVER GROW UP...
UUUU UUUU
UUGH!
SPX EXHAUSTED

BUT NO MORE, STARTING TOMORROW...
FOR SURE...

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